Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 266830 ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 266830

NODIS

FOR NEWSOM FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF BENIGNO AQUINO

REF: MANILA 17635

- 1. I THINK WE ARE IN AGREEMENT ON AQUINO CASE AND I FULLY AGREE THAT SITUATION SHOULD MATURE A BIT BEFORE YOU CONSIDER RAISING IT WITH MARCOS. HOWEVER, MAY I ADD SOME THOUGHTS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.
- 2. DESPITE THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU CITE IN PARA 4 REFTEL, I WOULD URGE YOU WHEN IT BECOMES APPROPRIATE TO REMIND MARCOS THAT HE TOLD ME IN APRIL THAT HE WOULD LET AQUINO GO WITHOUT ANY CONFESSION OF GUILT AS LONG AS HE WAS NOT LIONIZED. WE SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE THIS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE.

3. I WOULD ALSO BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT HAVING ANY EMBASSY OFFICER APPEAR TO BE DEALING WITH AQUINO'S FAMILY ON TERMS OF RELEASE RIGHT NOW. THIS COULD GET BACK TO MARCOS AND CAUSE A MISUNDERSTANDING. WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH EVIDENCE ALREADY THAT AQUINO'S FAMILY AND APPARENTLY EVEN HE HIMSELF

ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT. THIS HAS UNDOUBTEDLY COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOP. WE MUST NOT APPEAR TO BE INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE MATTER PREMATURELY AS IT COULD REDUCE YOUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS WHEN THE TIME COMES TO TALK TO MARCOS. I ASSUME THAT INFORMATION ON THE AQUINO SITUATION WILL BECOME AVAILABLE INDIRECTLY. IF WE DO NOT GET WHAT WE NEED THEN WE COULD SHIFT TO A MORE DIRECT APPROACH. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF BENIGNO AQUINO TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, RP, US, (AQUINO, BENIGNO)

To: MANILA Type: TE

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